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REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the communication of March 13, 2003. Re-examination and reconsideration of claims 20-37 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 20, 23, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Turner (U.S. Patent No. 4,090,064).

Claims 21-23, 28-31, 34, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner in view of Buisson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,988,995).

Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner in view of Buisson, and in further view of the Omega temperature book.

Claim 33 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner in view of Kawamura (U.S. Patent No. 4,690,532).

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turner in view of Buisson, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,988,995).

Claims 34 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The status of claim 24 is unclear. On the cover sheet of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claim 24 has been rejected. In the body of the office action, however, no rejection has been applied to claim 24.

Objections to the Drawings

Figures 8B-E show the portion of claim 32 to which the Examiner has objected. Figures 8B and 8C display the value "36.74" 36.7 being the higher three digits,

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and 6.74 being the lower three digits, as claimed. Similarly, Figures 8D and 8E display the value "98.54," the higher three digits being 98.5 and the lower three digits being 8.54. These features are clearly described on page 17 at lines 6-21; page 18, line 25 to page 20, line 14 and on page 30, line 1 to page 31, line 10.

The portion of claim 34 to which the Examiner takes exception has been removed from the claim.

The Claims Distinguish Patentably over the References of Record

It is an object of the present invention to display the temperature of a subject under measurement on a single display even when the temperature value as computed by the computation device (5) contains more digits than a number of digits of the display device (6). The electronic thermometer display system of Turner cannot achieve this goal. In Turner, the values are calculated as follows:

Tenths	->	Counter 122
Ones	->	Counter 124
Tens and hundreds	->	Counter 126

Turner includes 4 displays, as follows:

Tenths	->	Display 106
Ones	->	Display 108
Tens	->	Display 110
Hundreds	->	Display 112

In Turner, the value produced by counter 122 is displayed on display 106, the value produced by counter 124 is displayed on display 108, and the values produced by counter 126 are displayed on displays 110 and 112.

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Hence, Turner can display four digit values, but not more. The present application contemplates a method and apparatus for displaying a five or more digit value on a four digit display. For example, Turner cannot display the value "100.12" on its display because there are not enough display elements.

Claim 20 calls for displaying a first temperature value portion and a second temperature value portion in a time sharing manner. In an illustrative example, say the thermometer measures the temperature of the subject as 100.12 °F. The first temperature value portion can be "100.1" and the second temperature value portion can be ".12". These first and second values can, for example, be displayed alternately in the display. Turner fails to teach displaying first and second temperature value portions in a time sharing manner. In the Turner device, if the temperature were measured as 100.12 °F, the display would only show "100.1". No second temperature portion, with any additional digits -beyond the four- could be shown, nor would there be any time sharing display of two different portions of a temperature value. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 20 dependent therefrom now distinguishes patentably and unobviously over the references of record.

Claims 21-37, which merely further patentably define the detailed subject matter of their parent claim, or each other, are also in condition for allowance over the art of record.

Claim 38 is cancelled herewith.

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CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, an early allowance of claims 20-37 is earnestly solicited.

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